

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 11-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 8 are independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-12, and 15-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,750,437) in view of Perregaux et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,119,181) Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,831,687). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has relied on the Suzuki reference to show that color difference gain processing is known in the art. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Suzuki has a white balance detection processing circuit 35 as shown in Fig. 2 and is adapted to calculate the present white balance adjustment values R-gain and B-gain in step S15 as described in Col. 12, lines 10-19. It differs from the feature of the Applicants' invention in which the color difference gain processing, or chroma gain processing, is performed.

Suzuki discloses the compensation for color shading occurring from the optical axis as presented by Equations (6) and (9) to (11) in col. 8, lines 12-33.

As it is clear from Equation (7) where h represents the distance from the optical axis, the color shading occurs such that the periphery (four corners) of an image is colored when the optical axis is white, by way of example. To solve such drawback, Suzuki specifically adjusts the values of the R-gain and B-gain depending on the color temperature (see col. 7, lines 30-35).

By contrast, Applicants' invention performs the color difference gain processing or chroma gain processing, i.e., add gains to the data Cr and Cb, but does not control the white balance or adjust the R-gain and B-gain values.

In the present invention, the adjustment of the white balance is executed by the first and second white balance gain circuits 202 and 212 as shown in Fig. 2. Suzuki relates to such white balance processing. On the other hand, the color difference gain (chroma gain) processing of the present invention is carried out by the corrector 218 in Fig. 2. Therefore, it would not have been obvious for one skilled in the art to come up with the features of the present invention based on Suzuki.

Claims 2, 4-5, and 15, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Claim 8 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with regard to claim 1.

Claims 9-12 and 16, variously dependent on claim 8, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 8.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 6-7 and 13-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita in view of Perregaux and Suzuki, and further in view of Ng et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,102). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 7, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 13 and 14, variously dependent on claim 8, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 8.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

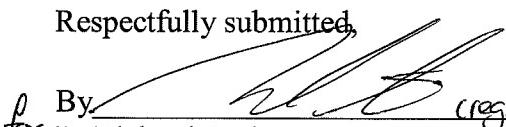
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

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Respectfully submitted,

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